

SHERBURNE NATURE CENTER AND TRAILS

WELCOME

These trails are open daily, dawn to dusk, for residents of Tyngsboro and neighboring towns. On these trails, you can traverse several woodland streams, go bird-watching, try to catch a glimpse of a beaver, follow animal tracks, and observe meadow wildflowers and butterflies. Depending on the season, you can explore on foot, snowshoes, cross-country skis, or a bicycle. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on these trails. Dogs are welcome, but per town bylaw, must remain leashed. Enjoy the trails in all seasons. Please take only pictures and leave only footprints.

MEADOW TRAIL (.2 MILE)

This accessible trail goes through the wildlife meadow, home to a bounty of plants and insects. Birds feed on the abundant food sources, including Milkweed, Thistle, and Canadian Goldenrod. Watch out for poison ivy.

WETLAND TRAIL (.4 MILE)

This trail goes alongside the beaver pond, where you can observe herons, ducks, and turtles as well as some amazing wetland plants such as Wild Cranberry and the carnivorous Pitcher Plants. If you're lucky, you may see a beaver. Please keep a safe distance so they don't feel threatened.

HEMLOCK TRAIL (.2 MILE)

This trail traverses northeastern deciduous forest habitat with a variety of tree species, a grove of eastern hemlocks and a grove of beech trees, along with several large old white pines and wild cherry trees.

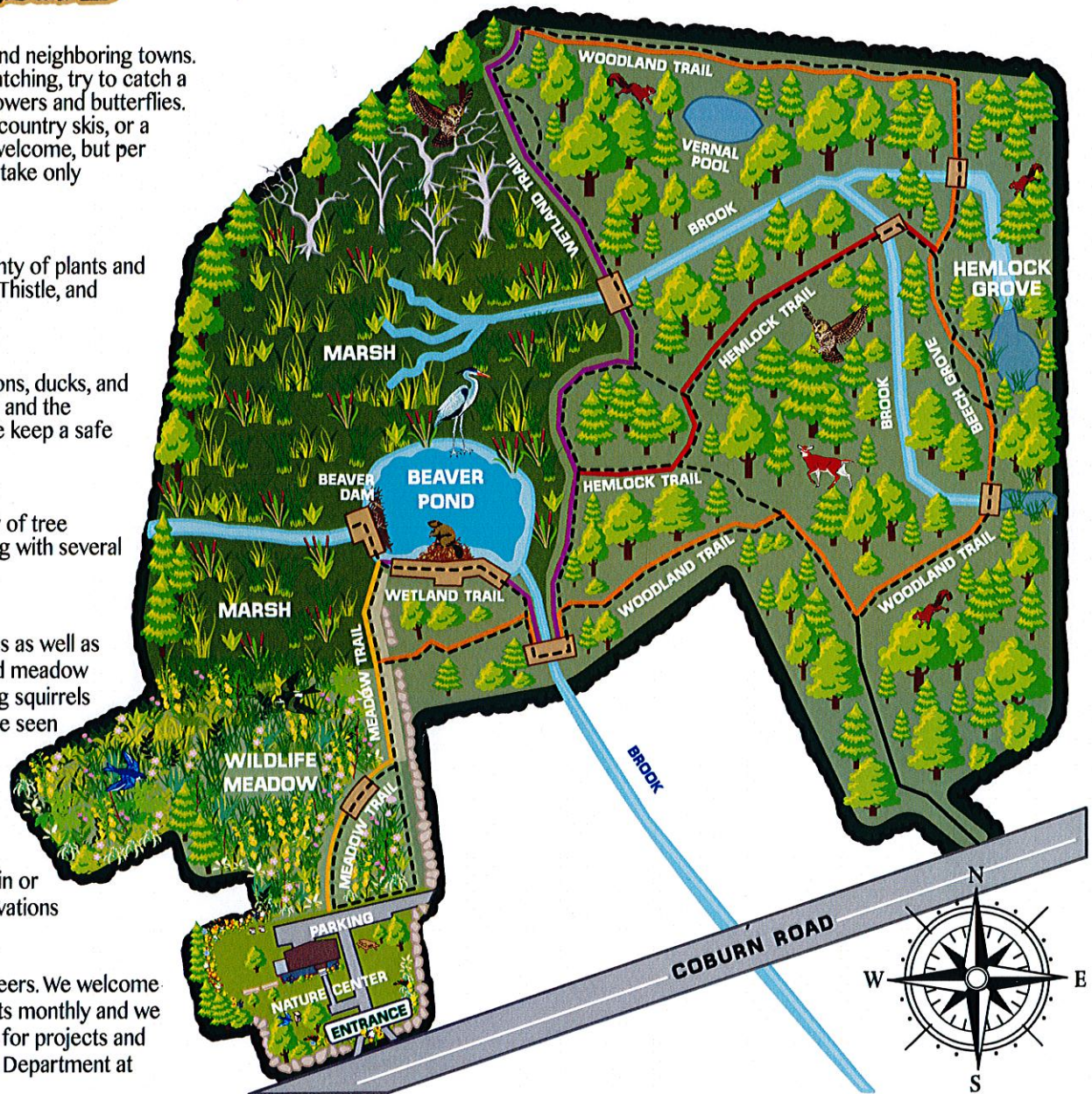
WOODLAND TRAIL (1.2 MILES)

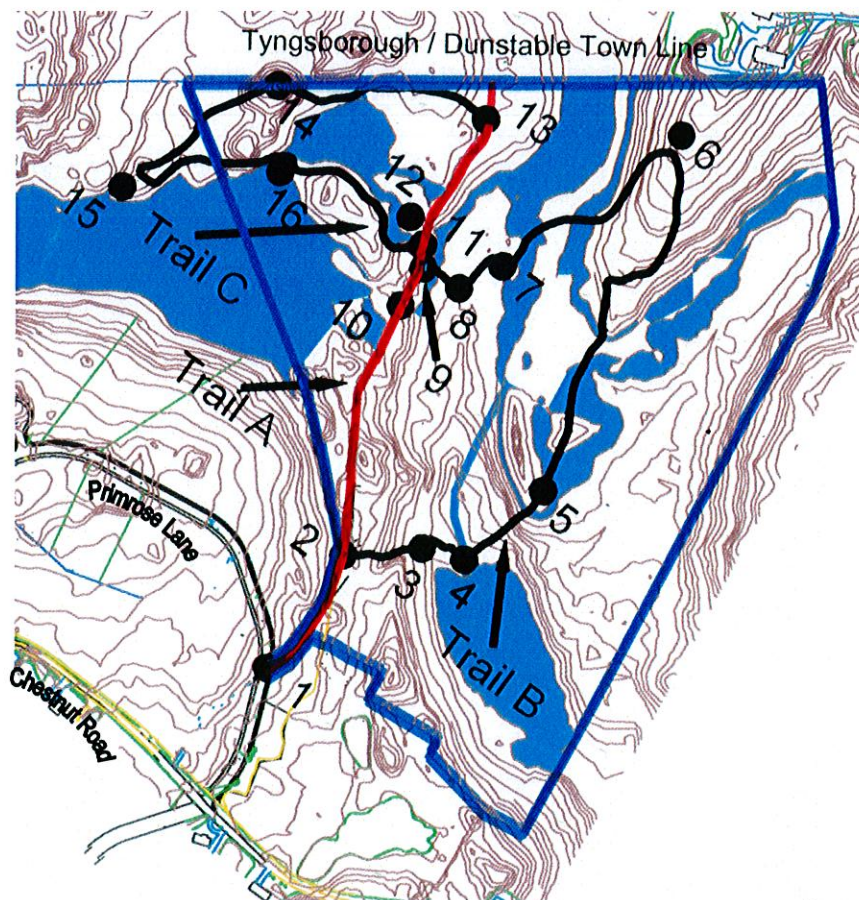
This trail goes through lots of forest habitats. Deer and eastern coyotes as well as foxes call the forest home. Turkeys often march through the forest and meadow during the day. Screech and barred owls haunt the forest at night. Flying squirrels make their homes in the cavities of trees, and fishers can sometimes be seen patrolling the area.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SHERBURNE NATURE CENTER

Sherburne Nature Center was generously donated by the Sherburne family. The activities are open to all who are interested. Activities go rain or shine. In extreme weather conditions, activities are cancelled. No reservations or fees required. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

The Sherburne Nature Center Committee is comprised of local volunteers. We welcome new members to help plan activities and exhibits. The Committee meets monthly and we invite high school students, scouts, and the public to come share ideas for projects and programs. If you're interested, please call the Tyngsboro Conservation Department at 978-649-2300 extension 116.





SHADY GLADE

STATIONS

- | | |
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| 1. Trail head at Primrose Lane | 9. Second intersection of trail A and B |
| 2. First intersection of trail A and B | 10. Footbridge on trail A |
| 3. Several small brook crossings | 11. First intersection trail A and C |
| 4. Footbridge | 12. Old stone foundation |
| 5. Top of first hill | 13. Second intersection trail A and C |
| 6. Top of second hill | 14. Top of hill on trail C |
| 7. Several intersecting stone walls | 15. Old stone foundation |
| 8. Stone bridge | 16. Footbridge |

What to look for:

This area typifies the southern New England forest, with its layers, history, and processes.

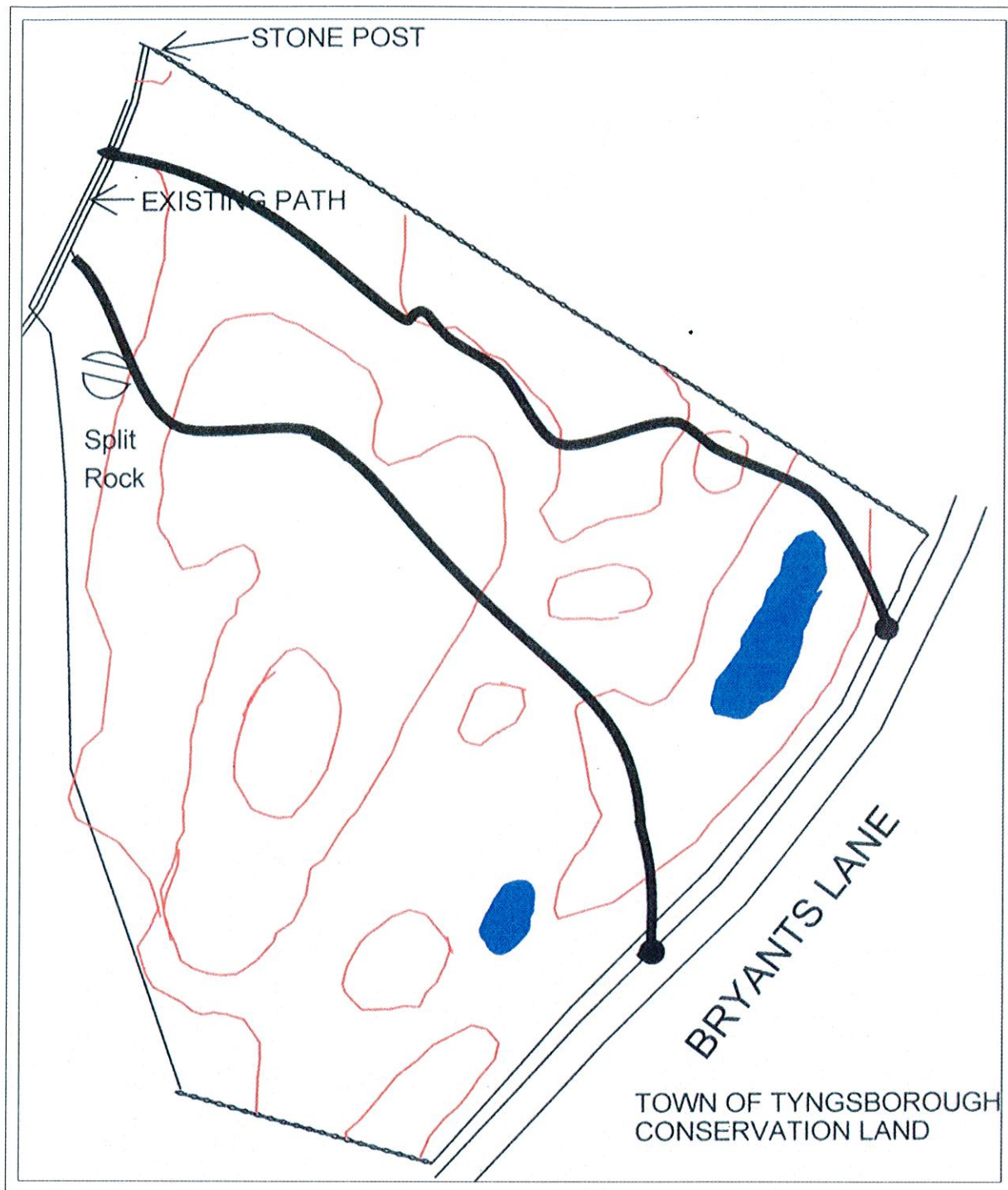
On the forest floor, you can find a host of plants including mosses, lichens, partridgeberry, wintergreen, Indian pipe, mushrooms, and princess pine. They grow around the logs and fallen oak leaves and pine needles, now decomposing and releasing nutrients back into the soil. The forest floor has a healthy crop of "New England potatoes," the boulders deposited by the last glaciers. Farmers cleared the boulders, building the stonewalls to mark their fields and contain their livestock. The boulders you see that are not part of the stone walls were either too large to move or they have surfaced since this land was farmed.

The shrub layer of this forest contains various native shrubs and smaller trees, including the witchhazel, a small tree credited with many magical powers. Flowering around Halloween may have earned it this name and the extract of its bark has long been used for medicinal purposes. The branches are also used as "divining rods."

The forest canopy is filled with the spreading branches of the oak trees and the tall pines. When an older tree falls, creating an opening in the canopy, young pines quickly grow in the patch of available sunlight..

BEWARE!

Poison ivy is well established on this property, growing along the trail in single stalks and well established plants growing up tree trunks (resembling a hairy rope).



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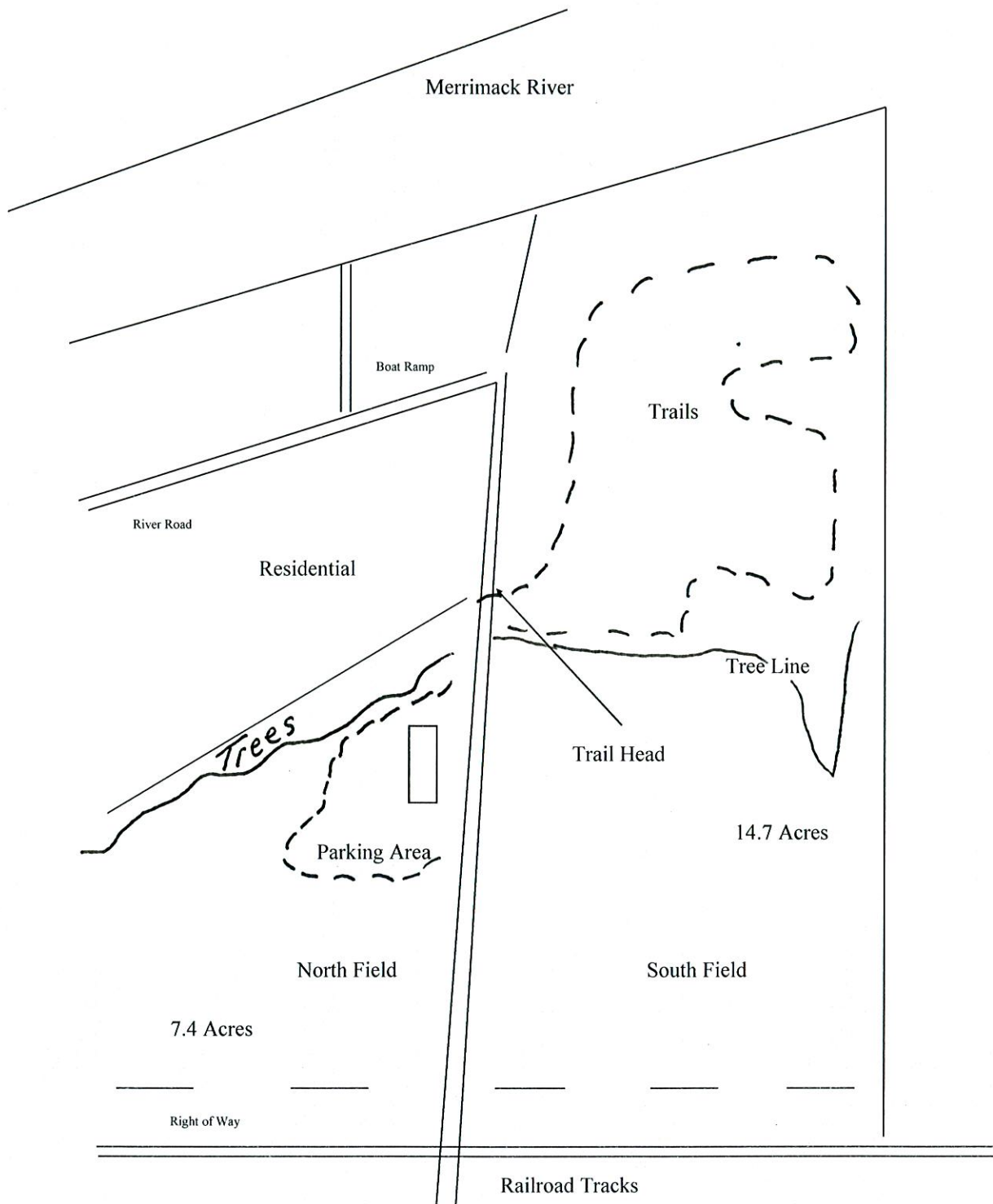
STONE WALLS ARE A GREAT PLACE TO LOOK FOR ALL SORTS OF WILDLIFE. CHIPMUNKS, MICE, SPIDERS AND SNAKES FREQUENTLY MAKE THEIR HOMES IN THE MANY CREVICES IN THE ROCKS.

A MINK FARM USED TO BE HOUSED ON THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE BELL LAND ALONG MIDDLESEX ROAD. MEMBERS OF THE WEASEL FAMILY AND RESEMBLING FERRETS, MINKS FEED ON FISH, BIRDS, RODENTS AND FROGS. OCCASIONALLY, A MINK CAN STILL BE SEEN HERE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OR EARLY MORNING.

TWO VERNAL POOLS ON THIS PROPERTY PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WATER FOWL AND VARIOUS AMPHIBIANS. DISTINCTIVE TO THIS LOT IS THE PRESENCE OF A COMMUNITY OF PINK LADY SLIPPERS.

SPRING BRINGS A VARIETY OF MIGRATING WOODLAND SONG BIRDS. WOODED AREAS PROVIDE CRITICAL NESTING AND FEEDING STOPS FOR THESE BIRDS WHILE THEY MIGRATE FROM THEIR WINTER FEEDING GROUNDS TO THEIR NORTHERN BREEDING HABITATS.

BELL PROPERTY



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HUNTER PROPERTY